



CITY COUNCIL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

04-R-1815

A RESOLUTION BY

COUNCILMEMBER DEBL STARNES

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF ATLANTA'S OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE GEORGIA CONSTITUTION REGARDING GAY AND LESBIAN RELATIONSHIPS, AND TO THE WORDING OF THE CORRESPONDING GEORGIA AMENDMENT 1 ON THE NOVEMBER 2004 BALLOT.

R.A. Starnes
Anne Fauver
Carla Smith
Natasha Archibald
Clair Muller
May Norwood

WHEREAS, in its 2004 legislative session, the Georgia Legislature passed a bill that would place on the November 2004 ballot a question regarding whether the Georgia Constitution should be amended in a manner that restricts the States' recognition of gay and lesbian relationships ("Amendment 1"); and

WHEREAS; should it pass, Amendment 1 would amend the Georgia Constitution ("Constitutional Amendment") to provide that Georgia "shall recognize as marriage only the union of man and woman." In addition, the Constitutional Amendment would provide, among other things, that no same sex unions of any kind be recognized by the State as entitled to the benefits of marriage, and would limit the Georgia Courts' ability to consider certain lawsuits regarding same sex relationships; and

WHEREAS, the Constitutional Amendment will impact the ability of some gay and lesbian couples to obtain health insurance, to obtain sick leave for care of their partners, would jeopardize gay and lesbian parents' custody and child visitation rights, would impact the ability of gay men and lesbians to use the Family Medical Leave Act to care for sick and dying partners, would impact the ability of gay men and lesbians to visit their partners in the hospital, would impact the ability of some gay men and lesbians to make medical decisions for their partners, would impact survivor benefits, and would deny certain general legal protections for gay men and lesbians; and

WHEREAS, the Constitutional Amendment will impact the ability of Georgia businesses to recruit highly qualified employees, and will also hurt Georgia tourism; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 1 will state only that the Constitution shall be amended to recognize marriage as between a man and woman. Amendment 1 will not show the remainder of the Constitutional Amendment, and therefore will not inform voters of the wide-ranging impact of the Constitutional Amendment; and

WHEREAS, the wording of Amendment 1 is deceptive; and

WHEREAS, the Constitutional Amendment discriminates against gay men and lesbians, and inscribes this discrimination into the Georgia Constitution; and